



Photo Only, Copyright 1962 by A. E. Burbank, Plymouth, Mass.
Cable Office, Duxbury, Mass.

**Cable House. At left, Union Store
(now Duxbury Historical Society)**

(Continued from inside)

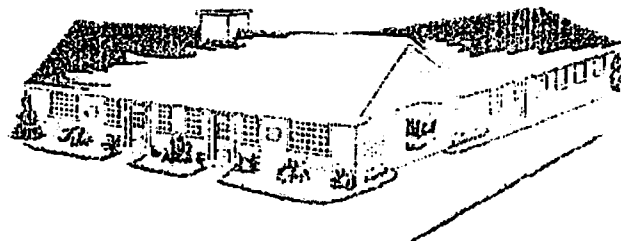
demy, erected in 1844 under the provision of a will by George Partridge. This academy served Duxbury for almost 80 years. The fine building was unfortunately destroyed by fire in 1933.

For many years prior to the advent of railroads, Duxbury had satisfactory stagecoach service, north to Boston and south to Kingston and Plymouth. From 1845, when neighboring Kingston was included in the rail route from Boston, the Duxbury-Kingston Stagecoach became a convenient link to the new mode of transport. In 1871, an independent line (The Duxbury and Cohasset Railroad) began operations, thus linking Duxbury directly with Boston. As perhaps a harbinger of things to come, the road was plagued with a deficit from its very start and after seven years passed into the hands of The Old Colony Railroad Company.

The Twentieth Century has been marked by the influx of the "summer native". These folks have helped revive the financial and civic status of Duxbury. Present indications are that our town is now in a stage of dynamic but orderly growth.

This narrative has barely touched the high spots of a fascinating historical past. Today, we live in an era which may mark, for future historians, the start of another fascinating chapter in The Story of Duxbury.

IPA **First Parish Church, Town Hall,
Partridge Academy - c. 1920**



Duxbury Office

ROCKLAND TRUST COMPANY

This folder has been prepared to commemorate the dedication of our new Duxbury Office Building and the 325th Anniversary Year of the founding of Duxbury Township.

While we have served numerous Duxbury residents over the years, we now look forward to even closer ties as we officially join your community. We sincerely hope to aid in both present civic enterprises and future growth while sharing your pride in a rich, historic past.



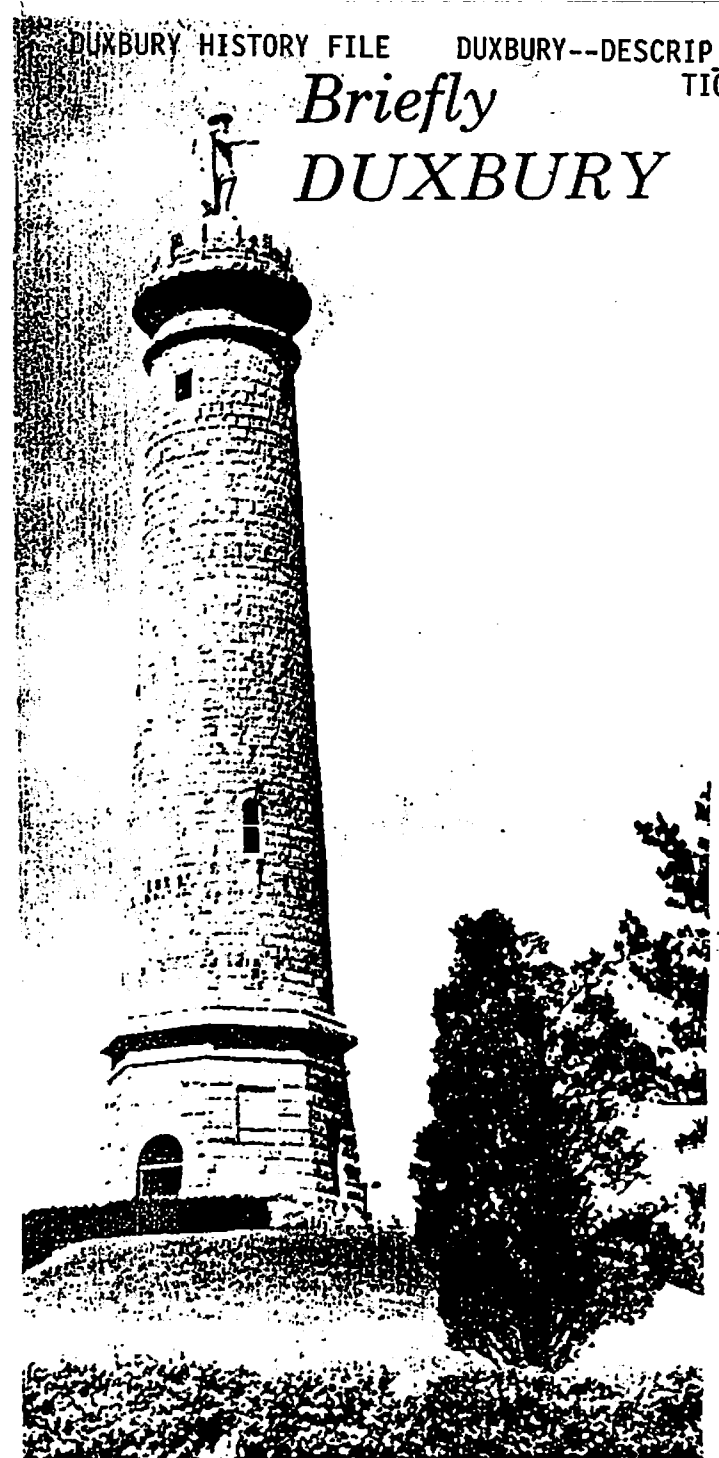
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Credits

The information contained herein has been compiled for the Rockland Trust Company by Libertine & Reed, Inc., Braintree. The authors extend their thanks and appreciation to the Duxbury Rural & Historical Society (and especially to the Curators, Mrs. and Mrs. William L. McKinney) for original source material and photographs. The cover photograph of the Standish Monument was supplied by the Massachusetts Department of Commerce.



SELECTED GLIMPSES FROM
OUR TOWN'S HISTORIC PAST

Briefly Duxbury

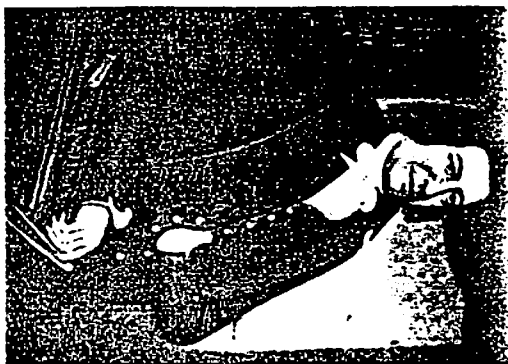
If one were forced to describe Duxbury in a single word, that word might well be "charm". Like Nantucket and other quaint New England seaports, Duxbury has an unusually large number of Colonial and Neo-Classical homes. When other towns were replacing the earlier styles of architecture with Victorian and other types, Duxbury was in an economic decline due to the demise of its shipbuilding industry. As with Nantucket whalers, Duxbury shipbuilders migrated and population growth came to a standstill. As a result, the existing buildings of early architecture met the needs of the remaining population for many years to come.

Before the decline, Duxbury was a world-renowned port and shipbuilding center. The first shipyard was established in 1719 at Captain's Hill and by 1837 there existed fourteen shipyards. By the mid 1800's, however, this town's industry had reached a turning point. The growing demand for Clipper ships (too large for Duxbury ways and waters), together with competition from steamships, soon brought an end to this remarkable era. The last merchant ship launched in Duxbury was built in 1875. In all more than 600 vessels were built here.

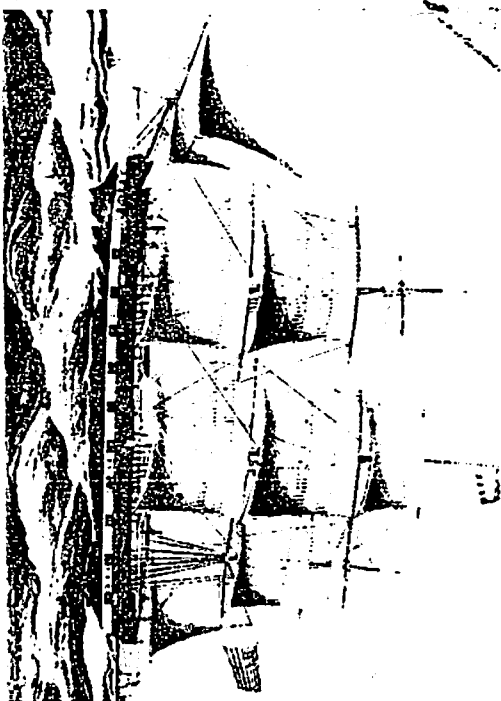
Certainly, one of the most fascinating personalities in Duxbury's past was closely connected with the shipbuilding industry.

Typical Sea Captain's Homes

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Ezra Weston I (King Caesar)



King Caesar's Ship "Hope" - 1841

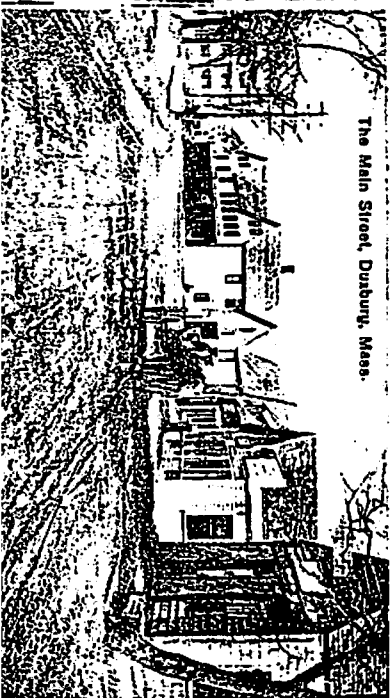
ing industry. Ezra Weston began his career at the age of 21 in 1764 in a yard on Powder Point. He became world-renowned, not only as a shipbuilder but as an owner and businessman as well. His "empire" soon controlled local commerce so completely that he was called "King Caesar". He passed his business acumen, his name and his "title" to King Caesar II (Ezra Weston II). By the year 1840 the Weston empire was recognized as the largest shipowner's enterprise in America and one of the largest in the world.

Largest of Weston ships was the "Hope", built in 1841 at the Ten Acre Yard on the Bluefish River. Weighing in at 881 tons, she was the largest New England vessel of her time and a rightful source of pride to the citizens, sailors and craftsmen of Duxbury.

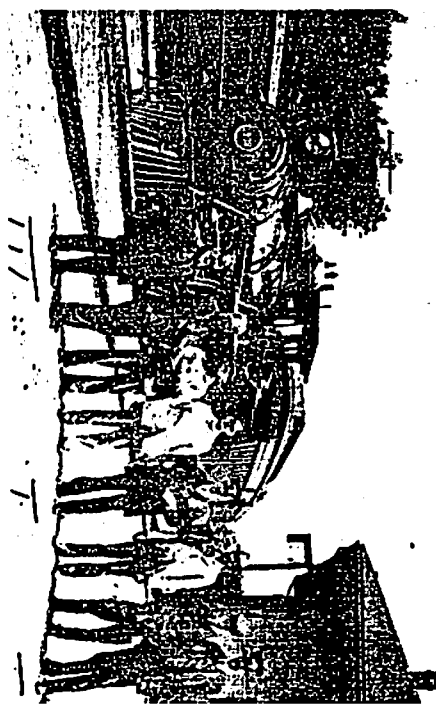
In addition to shipbuilding and farming, in-home shoemaking was an important industry during this period. The Tinkertown section, in particular, was the center of a flourishing shoe business until the Industrial Revolution brought an end to the small custom maker.

Main Street at Snug Harbor - c. 1900

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The Main Street, Duxbury, Mass.



South Duxbury Station - c. 1900

Among the other industries which have made their mark on Duxbury, we should mention iron working, tinsmithing, carriage building, harness making, textiles, fishing, cranberry growing and the first "department store" in America. Nor must we overlook the famous Duxbury shellfish industry. The Duxbury clam, at one time, was considered the finest example of the species. Although still available today, the quantity cannot begin to match the prodigious numbers which were harvested and exported throughout the Eastern Seaboard in the 19th century.

Another 19th century occurrence which focused the world's spotlight on Duxbury was the laying of the French-Atlantic cable of 1869. This first telegraphic connection between Continental Europe and America was pulled ashore at Duxbury Beach and connected to American trunk lines at the Cable House, still standing on Town Square. The Cable House previously served as the Duxbury Bank from 1833 to 1842.

Duxbury has long been in the forefront of American education and looks back with special pride to Partridge Academy.

(Continued on inside back cover)

Duxbury-Kingslon Stagecoach - 1867

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